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Application Number	10/080,303
Filing Date	21 February 2002
First Named Inventor	Pinarbasi et al.
Art Unit	1765
Examiner Name	Deo
Attorney Docket Number	SJO920010155US1

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 3

## ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	John J. Oskorep, Esq.
Signature	
Date	15 April 2004

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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Signature		Date	15 April 2004

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

***Pinarbasi et al.***

Serial No.: 10/080,303

Filed: 02/21/2002

)  
)  
) Group No.: 1765

) Examiner: Deo, Duy Vu Nguyen

) Docket No.: ***SJO920010155US1***  
)

For: ***METHOD OF FORMING A READ SENSOR USING A LIFT-OFF MASK  
HAVING A HARDMASK LAYER AND A RELEASE LAYER***

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, please consider the following:

*In the mailing of March 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, a Restriction Requirement was issued for the above-referenced patent application.* In the restriction requirement, the Examiner separated the claims of the present application into two groups, namely Group I "method" claims 1-15 and Group II "product" claims 16-20.

In response, the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner and traverse the Examiner's restriction. Group II product claims 16-20 are made by the same method recited in method claim 1. As recited in product claim 16, the product is made by "forming a lift-off mask over a central region of a sensor layer and then ion milling the sensor layer such that the end portions of the sensor layer are removed and a central portion of the sensor layer remains, the lift-off mask comprising a hardmask layer formed over a release layer." These are the same limitations recited in claim 1.

The Examiner states that "in the instant case the product can be made by another and materially different process such as a process using wet etch or RIE to remove the sensor layer." *However, claim 16 (product) and claim 1 (method) recite the same step of "ion milling" and have the same scope with respect to "ion milling" even if an alternative process of wet etch or RIE is utilized.* In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the position taken. In the event the Examiner continues to disagree, the Applicants hereby elect GROUP I method claims 1-15 with traverse.

Thank you. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if necessary to expedite this matter.

Date: 15 April 2004

Respectfully Submitted,

JOHN J. OSKOREP  
Reg. No. 41,234

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